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# PSCI 422.01A: Revolution and Reform in China

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**PSCI 422/ History 449: Revolution and Reform in China**  
**Fall 2013**

11:10-12:00 pm MWF: LA 337

Professor: Terry M. Weidner

Office: LA 414

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Office hours: Tues 9-10; Friday 12:30-2:00.

**Course Description:**

After a quick overview of key trends affecting China before Mao Zedong came to power, this course will use a lecture and discussion format to examine the Maoist revolution and the Dengist and post-Deng reforms that virtually destroyed it. The material on Mao's rule will largely involve study of China's departure from a Soviet style model of economic development in favor of a Maoist revolutionary model that produced the disastrous Great Leap and Cultural Revolution. The subsequent examination of post-Mao China will focus in large part on Deng Xiaoping's epochal economic reform, and its social and political impact (good and bad). The course will also explore how both China's new strength and its domestic problems are linked to a more assertive strategic, economic and military posture that has fed Sino-U.S. bilateral tensions and seems to threaten America's longstanding dominance in the Asia-Pacific. A previous course on China is helpful, but NOT mandatory.

What this course will help you understand:

- Key historical trends that impacted China in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Some of the reasons for the rise of Maoism
- The nature of Maoist rule, and the reasons for its collapse
- The complex nature of Dengist and post-Dengist economic reform and its impact on China's domestic political scene and foreign policy
- How Tiananmen occurred, why it failed, and its residual impact
- Key aspects of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Basic forces influencing Chinese foreign relations in general and U.S.-China political and economic relations in particular
- China's emergence as an economic and strategic power
- The complex challenges China faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- China's potential as a rival or threat to the U.S.

**Required Readings:**

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*. Random House, 1984 (paperback)

William Joseph (ed): *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Oxford Univ. Press 2010 (paperback)

Rob Gifford, *China Road: A Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power*, Random House, 2007 (hardback)

**Plus a number of book selections and media articles on contemporary issues that will be made available on Moodle**

**GRADING:**

**Attendance and class participation: one-third**  
**mid-term examination: one-third**  
**final take-home project: one-third**

Students must successfully complete *both* written assignments to receive a grade in the course.

You will note that a relatively high percentage of the grade in this course depends on class preparation and participation. That means one need not only show up for class but to come having done the reading and demonstrate s/he is prepared to discuss it.

NOTE: Those taking the class for **graduate credit** must: 1) Give a presentation to the class based on research done that relates to the class, but is not otherwise covered, and 2) must submit a mid-term exam and final project that are more complex and sophisticated than those expected from undergraduates

**Schedule of Class Topics:**

August 24/26/28: Background of 20<sup>th</sup> Century reform; the Struggle between the Guomindang and Communist Parties; America's policy dilemma;  
**Assignment:** Joseph, chapter 2 and, p. 130-137

September 2: No Class (Labor Day)  
**Assignment:** begin reading *Son of the Revolution*.

September 4/6: The Maoist victory and early pragmatism  
**Assignment:** Joseph, p.63-74; continue reading *Son of the Revolution*

September 9/11/13: Sino-Soviet Split, Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution  
**Assignment:** read Joseph, p.74-91, 137-149; Read excerpt from *Out of Mao's Shadow* (Moodle) and try to close out *Son of the Revolution*.

September 16/18/20: Deng's rise to power and the nature and pace of early reform  
**Assignment: Come prepared for quiz** on Out of Mao's Shadow chapter and Son of the Revolution on **Monday**; read Joseph, p. 91-110.

September 23/25/27: Deng's early reform (continued); Overview of changes in China's Foreign Policy, Mao-Deng  
**Assignment:** TBA

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September 30/October 2/4: Economic and political contradictions on the eve of Tiananmen; the Tiananmen Movement: Origins and the Reason for its Suppression

**Assignment:** Joseph, p. 110-114; Weidner article, "Protest and Suppression in China" (on Moodle)

October 7/9/11: Backlash and Deng's last gasp; the return to wholesale reform; documentary film coverage of reform period

**Assignment:** Joseph, p. 114-124

October 14: Review for Mid-term

October 16: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION, Part I**

**Assignment: Prepare for exam**

October 18: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION, Part II**

**Assignment: Prepare for exam**

October 21/23/25: The SOE problem, the Asian Financial Crisis and WTO; China's struggle to centralize control of the economy.

**Assignment:** TBA

October 28/30/November 1: The Price of Reform: The Income gap, Corruption, and Environmental degradation

**Assignment:** TBA

November 4/6/ 8: The Economic Slowdown, PRC Domestic Problems and their influence on US-China Relations

**Assignment:** Weidner paper; start Gifford Book

November 11: NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY

**Assignment:** Keep reading Gifford book

November 13/15: The Specter of Separatism: Two Case Studies (Taiwan, Xinjiang)

**Assignment:** continue reading Gifford book

November 18/20/22: China's Use of Trade and Investment as a Strategic Tool: the Case of Africa; Nationalism and China's Assertive New Strategic posture in Asia

**Assignment:** Handouts, TBA; **finish and come ready to discuss Gifford book on Friday**; begin thinking about final project

November 25: Catch Up

**Assignment:** TBA; keep thinking about final project

November 27/29: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

December 2/4/6: Wrap Up and Discussion: Can China Sustain Its Economic & Strategic Trajectory? Is China a Threat to the US?

**Assignment:** Work on final project

**DECEMBER 11TH (5:00pm) FINAL PROJECTS DUE**

**Note: MUST be uploaded on Moodle**